

ADDITIONAL POPULATIONS OF *ARCEUTHOBIMUM HONDURENSE*
DISCOVERED IN HONDURAS

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ABSTRACT

Additional locations are documented for *Arceuthobium hondurense*. The species is as yet known only from Honduras.

KEY WORDS: *Arceuthobium*, Viscaceae, Honduras

In March 1999, Honduran dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium hondurense* Hawksw. & Wiens) was observed parasitizing *Pinus oocarpa* Schiede 5 km east of Lepaterique, Department Francisco Morazán, Honduras (1950 m elevation) along the main road to Tegucigalpa. Honduran dwarf mistletoe is one of the rarest dwarf mistletoes in the New World (Hawksworth & Wiens 1996), and this is only the third confirmed location for this dwarf mistletoe. Several trees were severely infected at the Lepaterique location. Infected trees had branch swellings, abundant aerial shoots, and many produced witches' brooms. Anthesis for this mistletoe was thought to occur only in August-September (Hawksworth & Wiens 1996; Mathiasen *et al.* 1998), but we found male plants were at peak flowering in early March. Therefore, this mistletoe appears to have two distinct flowering periods annually: February-March and August-September. Specimens of *A. hondurense* from near Lepaterique were collected and have been deposited at the Deaver Herbarium (ASC), Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ. Our examination of three herbarium specimens of *A. hondurense* deposited at the Standley Herbarium (EAP), Escuela Agricola Panamericana, Zamorano, Honduras indicates that this mistletoe also occurs in Celaque National Park west of Gracias, Department Lempira, in western Honduras. Therefore, there are now four known, widely isolated geographic areas (Figure 1) where this rare dwarf

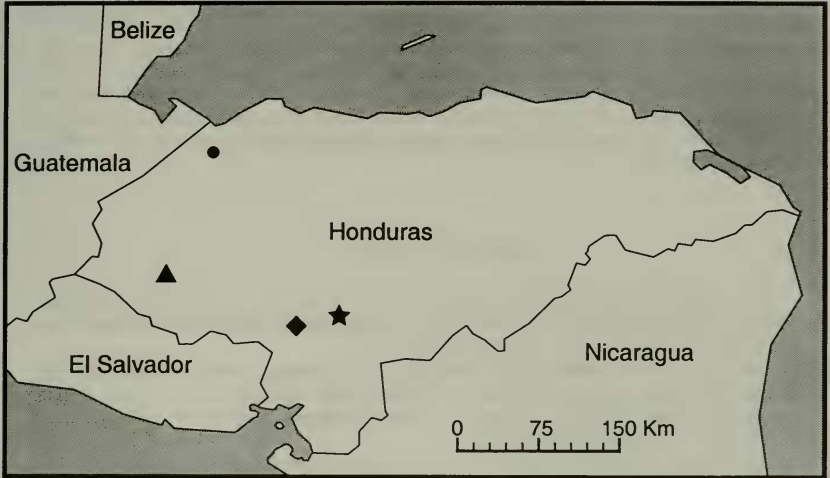


Figure 1. Location of the only known populations of *Arceuthobium hondurense* in Honduras: Cusuco National Park (circle), in the Piedra Herrada Mountains southeast of Tegucigalpa (star), near Lepaterique (diamond), and in Celaque National Park (triangle).

mistletoe occurs in Honduras: 1 - west of Zamorano (four collected populations), 2 - Cusuco National Park (one collected population), 3 - east of Lepaterique (one collected population), and 4 - Celaque National Park (three collected populations) (Figure 1). The reasons for the occurrence of this dwarf mistletoe in extremely disjunct populations (> 40 km apart) within a landscape of almost continuous forests of its principal host remain unknown (Hawksworth & Wiens 1996). We speculate that because most of these pine forests consist of second-growth stands, many populations of *A. hondurensis* that once existed have been eliminated by the large-scale harvesting of Honduran forests.

LITERATURE CITED

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